

**BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE**

There was a regular meeting for the above-referenced subcommittee held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 9, 2016 in Conference Room #2, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Present were: Councilors Joseph Washington and Leon Rivers

Also present were: Philip K. Schenck Jr., Town Manager, Chief Paul Hammick, Pat Braun and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council.

Absent were: Councilor Derrick Seldon, Joel Neuwirth and Joseph Merritt, Chief William Riley and Chief Robert Farmer

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

This item was deferred until the next scheduled meeting for approval. No quorum present.

**POLICE**

The police department remains on track with the budget. There have been no unplanned expenses. Overtime figures are trending as projected. It was noted that the Patrol Division may acquire some savings. However, it was noted that the department is entering into summer vacation season with slight increases for leave requests.

**Personnel Updates**

The department has a total of 61 employees of which, there are 49 budgeted sworn officers. However, the department currently has 46 sworn police officers.

**Recruitment**

- Officer Madison Bolden retired on April 29, 2016.

Recruits Presley Stewart and Graham Brown are doing very well in the Police Academy.

Candidate Jalisa Cuevas has passed all of the required mandated steps for police action. She will be sworn in on May 16, 2016.

Part Time Dispatcher Shimona Spears hired in March 2016 is doing very well. She will be completed with training by June 1, 2016.

On May 2, 2016, the second Police Cadet – Emmanuel Foster began his first day at the department. Mr. Foster is doing very well, has a great attitude and is eager to get involved. Police Cadet – Tiffany Allison is doing

great as well. Mr. Steve Goode, Hartford Courant reporter will interview Ms. Allison and Mr. Foster about the Police Cadet program.

The department is currently conducting background investigations of non-certified and certified candidates for the two remaining vacancies.

On May 12, 2016, Officer Shawn Galant will be promoted to Sergeant and Officer Christopher Collins will be promoted to Detective.

There was one citizen complaint for the month of April. This complaint involved an Animal Control officer and was unfounded.

There were three use of force incidents during the month of April. All incidents were reviewed and were within the parameters of department policy and state standards.

### Crime

Crime has increased significantly this past month. There were eleven assaults, mostly small disturbances at Bloomfield High School and domestic violence incidents.

There were five burglaries and 41 larcenies mostly from the Copaco Shopping Center. These figures are reflective in an increase in reporting.

From the Patrol Division, the traffic unit was not deployed and suspended this past month, due to a shortage in manpower.

The commercial vehicle unit was deployed three times during the month of April. They did 10 inspections of commercial vehicles in town.

There were no DUI or intoxicated driver details during the month of April.

However, traffic enforcement will be a continued focus for the department. The department is currently working under Distracted Driving and High Visibility enforcement, a part of a grant funded activity.

It was also reported that there were 78 car accidents (18 more than the month of March 2016) The majority of these accidents occurred on the east side of town, primarily Cottage Grove Road Blue Hills Avenue, Prospect Avenue and Bloomfield Avenue.

The department also conducted 29 motor vehicle enforcement activities, most were in lined with crime patterns and citizen complaints regarding traffic violations and grant funding requirements.

In addition, there were a total of 267 motor vehicle stops.

Citizen complaints for traffic were primarily on Mountain and Still Road. Several traffic signs were installed monitoring speed. Most of the reports noted travel between 30-35 mph. Citizens received verbal and written warning and no tickets were given. A second area of concentration focused efforts on Forest Lane and Duncaster Road in the area of Wadhams and Terry Plains Road.

All patrol officers are equipped with Narcan. It was reported that one incident was reported by the BVA, approximately 2 months ago.

### Community Services

There were four Citizen Police Academy classes held focusing on various topics such as:

- Use of Force
- Arrest Procedures
- Taser deployment
- Penal Law
- Domestic Violence
- Motor Vehicle Accidents - A presentation was given by the North Central Municipal Accident Reconstruction Squad
- Police and Stress
- Firearm Safety

Officer Robert Wilkins and Police Cadet Tiffany Allison attended the Manchester Community College Job Fair, Tunxis Community College Job Fair and Duncaster Retirement Community – Health Fair Day

### Body Cameras

The department completed testing and evaluation for one of the models.

The Panasonic model well supported the back office solution and download worked well. The officers in the field reported issues with battery life (only got 5 of the 8 hours in a shift), temperature with camera, long cord – clumsy and mounting system-falling off.

The department is awaiting the Watchguard model to arrive. The state police are currently utilizing this system.

### BVA

Chief Hammick and Sergeant Ellen White will present the recertification of HeartSafe for the Town of Bloomfield.

This recognition prepares the town:

- CPR training performed in the community
- Public access to strategic placement of automated external defibrillator (AED's) for use by public safety professionals and other trained community members.
- CPR and AED trained and equipped first responders

There are 19 students currently enrolled in the Spring EMT class. The State of Connecticut approved the town in being a Heart Safe Community.

## **FIRE**

Chief Riley and Chief Farmer were absent for this meeting.

## **EMS**

Mr. Pat Braun reported the BVA Fund met on May 9, 2016 and it was noted that donations exceeded from the prior year.

Bi-Annual Meeting discussion of the following:

The committee also briefly discussed the power loader for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ambulance, which cost approximately \$30,000. The committee approved \$18,000 from the BVA Fund may consider a request for additional funding through the town and conduct a business drive.

The BVA Fund also discussed the purchase of a new ambulance within three years. This ambulance would cost approximately \$200,000. The Bloomfield Rotary are scheduled to conduct a special drive for the fundraising this new ambulance.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Councilor Rivers mentioned possible renovations at the Police Department to display more direct contact with citizens. Most people in the community have complained about the lack of connection to real service from direct personnel when visiting at the police department.

Chief Hammick reported that a police cadet with in the front a couple hours per day and then staff in Records is available, however due to manpower issues, there is no solution at this time.

Mr. Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager agreed with possible renovations regarding the front lobby of the police station. It was suggested that a live feed may be a temporary solution.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Councilor Washington, seconded by Councilor Rivers and voted unanimously to adjourn this meeting at 7:17 p.m.